

# NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Carol A. Murray, Commissioner*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contacts:** Bill Boynton  
Public Information Office  
(603) 271-6495

**MOTORISTS HAVE THE MOST TO GAIN FROM WORK ZONE SAFETY**  
**MORE THAN 80% OF WORK ZONE DEATHS ARE DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS**

More than 1,000 people died in work zones across America in 2001. Four out of five, approximately 800 victims, were drivers or passengers rather than workers in the zones.

That statistic is being highlighted nationwide this as part of fourth annual National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 6-12, 2003) in an effort to drive home the message to motorists that work zone safety is not "someone else's problem."

Work zone fatalities continue to rise across the country. A total of 1,079 people were killed in work zone crashes in 2001 (the most recently available full year statistics) and more than 40,000 were injured. That fatality figure compares to 1,026 deaths in 2,000 and 872 in 1999. Virtually all of these tragedies were avoidable.

"We have been extremely fortunate to fare better than most other states in the number of work zone fatalities and injuries in recent years," says New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner Carol Murray. "But that does not mean we are immune to the problem. We must continue to get out the message about driving safely in work zones in New Hampshire."

"Work zones are necessary to keep us all moving," says John Horsley, Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. "But they do pose a danger, a very real danger, to both the workers and the people in the vehicles, and avoiding that danger is largely in the control of motorists," Horsley said.

Among the safety tips for motorists entering highway work zones:

- Stay alert! Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- Pay close attention! Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- Don't Tailgate!
- Don't Speed but keep up with the traffic flow!
- Don't change lanes!
- Minimize distractions! Avoid changing radio stations, using cell phones, eating etc.
- Expect the unexpected! Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- Be Patient! Remember, those in work zones are working to improve your future ride.

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